

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-5 and 25-33 without prejudice or disclaimer. After the entry of the instant amendment, the pending claims will be:

1. (currently amended) A strain-measuring device (10-16) including at least a deformable element (20-24) placed between at least two mounting contacts (30, 40) defining a fixation surface for being fixed on a structure (1) to be measured, prestressing means (80) of the aforementioned deformable element (20-24), measuring means (60) of the stress undergone by the aforementioned deformable element (20-24) and treatment means (70) of measurement signals, characterized in that the prestressing means (80) is are extended between at least the two mounting contacts (30, 40) and is are arranged for drawing together these two mounting contacts (30, 40) in translation and imposing a curvature of precise prestress to the aforementioned deformable element (20-24) , the these prestressing means (80) being also arranged for allowing a relative displacement in translation of these two mounting contacts (30, 40) when the aforementioned deformable element (20-24) is prestressed.
2. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the prestressing means (80) is are freely mounted at least in translation in one of the mounting contacts (30) and are tied at least in translation to the other mounting contact (40).
3. (currently amended) The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the prestressing means (80) includes at least a prestressing rod (81), of which at least the part (83) tied in translation to the aforementioned mounting contact (40) is threaded and cooperates with at least a nut (84) for displacing the aforementioned mounting contact (40) and at least a compensation member (85) arranged for exerting a return

force between the aforementioned prestressing rod (81) and one of the mounting contacts (30).

4. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the prestressing means (80) ~~is~~ are tied at least in translation to the two mounting contacts (30, 40).

5. (currently amended) The device according to claim 4, characterized in that the prestressing means (80) includes at least a prestressing rod, of which at least the parts tied in translation to the aforementioned mounting contacts (30, 40) are threaded in an opposite direction, at least two nuts arranged for receiving the aforementioned threaded parts from the prestressing rod and at least a compensation member arranged for exerting a return force between the aforementioned mounting contacts (30, 40).

Claims 6-24. (cancelled).

25. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned deformable element (20-23) is mounted by at least one of its ends in one of the mounting contacts (30, 40) by at least a technique chosen from the group comprising at least fitting, interlocking, screwing, riveting, gluing, and welding.

26. (currently amended) The device according to claim 25, characterized in that the aforementioned mounting contact (30, 40) comprises a mounting zone (31, 41) for receiving an end of the deformable element (20-23), this mounting zone being inclined with respect to the fixation surface of the aforementioned mounting contact (30, 40) in a manner to give to the aforementioned deformable element (20-23) an initial curvature in a direction of its prestress curvature.

27. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned mounting contacts (30, 40) are for fixing on the aforementioned structure (1) to be measured by at least a technique chosen from the group comprising at least screwing, riveting, gluing, and welding.
28. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the measuring means (60) of the stress undergone by the aforementioned deformable element (20-24) is are chosen from the group comprising at least resistive stress gauges (61,62), piezo-electric sensors, contactless proximity sensors, and vibration sensors.
29. (currently amended) The device according to claim 28, characterized in that the aforementioned stress gauges (61,62) are four in number and mounted as a Wheatstone bridge.
30. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a protective housing (90) at least partially covering the aforementioned mounting contacts (30, 40) and the aforementioned deformable element(s) (20-24).
31. (currently amended) The device according to claim 27 30, characterized in that the aforementioned protective housing is waterproofed.
32. (currently amended) The device according to claim 27 30, characterized in that the treatment means (70) signals comprises comprise at least an electronic conditioning circuit, this circuit being integrated with or coupled to the aforementioned housing (90), or displaced and linked to the aforementioned housing by means of communication.
33. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned treatment means (70) of signals is are arranged for measuring the

internal temperature of the aforementioned device and correcting the values of the aforementioned signals as a function of this temperature.